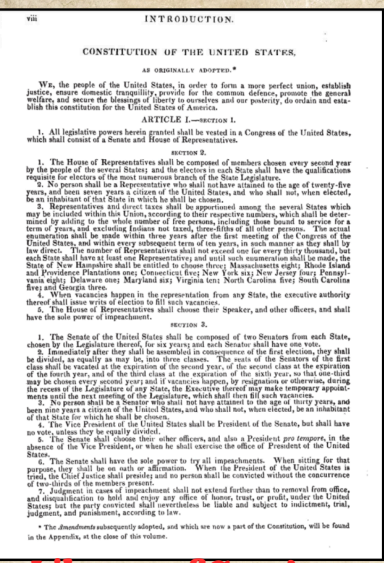


# From We the People to We the Class

## What is the Constitution?



Library of Congress

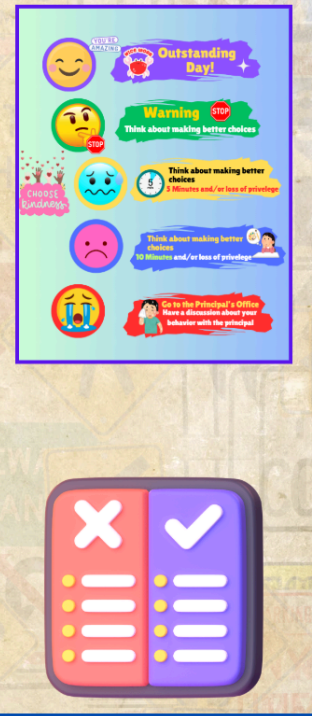
### What is the constitution?

A constitution is a special set of rules that everyone agrees to follow. Just like the rules we have at school, the U.S. Constitution helps everyone in our country get along and be safe. Today, we are going to learn how important these rules are and how we can make our own classroom constitution to help us learn and have fun together!



## What are the Rules?

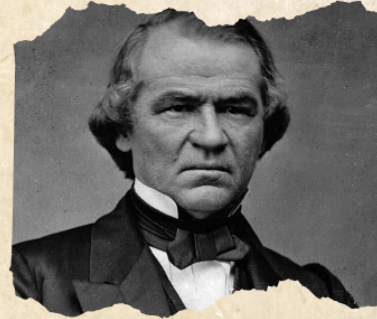
School	Home



## Does Everyone have to follow the Constitution?

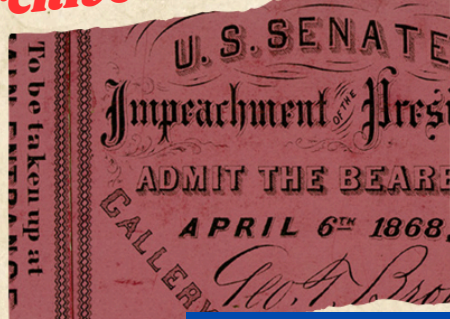
# 17<sup>TH</sup>

Does anyone know who our school is named after?



Does the president have to follow the constitution?

Archives of Appalachia



Archives

## We the class

of Andrew Johnson Elementary promise to follow these rules to make our class a great place to learn and have fun.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Now Let's Make Our Own Constitution!

# Our Rules



## Let's Brainstorm

### Constitutional Convention

Draw a picture of your favorite rule.

Explain why this rule is important.

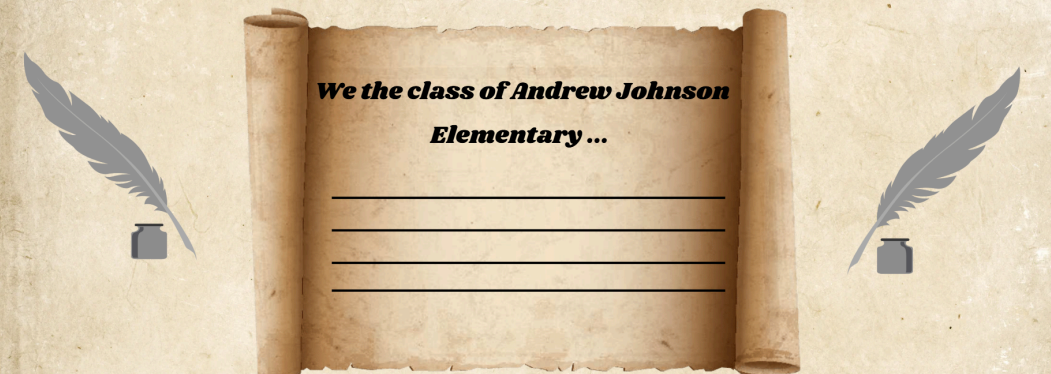
### Peer Talk

1. Tell your partner about your rule.

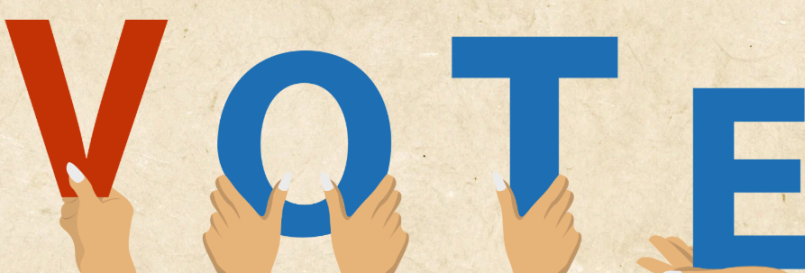
2. Tell them why you chose it.



## It's Time to Sign our Constitution!



# Voting Time!



Remember, just like in the country, everyone's voice matters. And these rules are here to make things fair and safe for everyone

## We the class

of Andrew Johnson Elementary promise to follow these rules to make our class a great place to learn and have fun.

- Don't Destroy stuff.
- Be the best you can be.
- Be caring.
- Help others.
- Follow the 7 Habits.

Andrew Raelyn Knox  
 Emma Aria Lian  
 Emeline Leo Aaron  
 Malia Phreya Nora  
 Amir Ezekiel ZYRICH  
 PAUL KARMELLO  
 Krie



## Let's Reflect

## Introduction & Purpose

This project explores the importance of teaching the U.S. Constitution and its principles in elementary social studies classrooms. By focusing on creating a "Classroom Constitution," this lesson emphasizes the value of rules, fairness, and cooperation, helping students build foundational civic understanding. The expanded narrative focuses on connecting historical concepts like the Constitution to students' everyday lives, fostering an appreciation of democratic processes and civic responsibility.

## Historical Overview

The U.S. Constitution, written in 1787, is the foundational document for the nation's laws and governance. It represents the principles of democracy, justice, and equality. In schools, the Constitution is often introduced briefly during Constitution Day or civics lessons, with a focus on its creation, its significance, and how it serves as a model for fairness and the rule of law. However, these lessons sometimes overlook how the principles of the Constitution apply to students' daily lives. By connecting this topic to the classroom experience, this lesson bridges the historical content with students' personal understanding of community and governance.

## Expanding the Narrative

The alternative perspective in this lesson lies in connecting the Constitution's principles to students' lived experiences. Rather than treating the Constitution as a historical artifact, this lesson reframes it as a living document that informs the way communities, including classrooms, function. This narrative emphasizes the importance of inclusivity and fairness, showing students how to actively create and maintain a positive community. By introducing these concepts early, the lesson helps students see themselves as contributors to a fair and cooperative society.

## Resources/Strategies/Activities

### Resources:

- "We the Kids" by David Catrow – A children's picture book that simplifies the Preamble to make it accessible to young learners.

- Images of the original Constitution or related historical artifacts from archives like the Library of Congress (loc.gov)

- Oral histories and exhibits from the Archives of Appalachia showcasing community rules and governance in Appalachian history. These resources illustrate how local communities created their own "constitutions" to manage fairness and safety

### Strategies:

- Role-playing scenarios where students act out rule-breaking and discuss solutions.
- Guided discussions on the importance of rules in communities and their connection to fairness and safety.

### Activities:

- Students write persuasive paragraphs explaining why a particular rule is essential for their classroom community, using linking words and concluding statements.

- Illustrating rules and sharing their explanations with the class to enhance understanding and ownership of the Classroom Constitution.

- Using primary sources, such as images of the Constitution or historical oral histories, to discuss how rules have been used historically to address community needs.

## References

- Library of Congress. (n.d.). Constitution of the United States as originally adopted [Image]. Retrieved December 5, 2024, from <https://www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/constitution/>
- Archives of Appalachia. (n.d.). U.S. Senate impeachment of the president admission ticket, April 6, 1868 [Image]. Retrieved December 5, 2024, from <https://archivesofappalachia.omeka.net/items/show/1118>